

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Rockwood, Frederick L., Lieutenant

Frederick L. Rockwood Papers, 1877

MS 4-11-17

4 items in one folder: Letter (4 l.), envelope, carte de visite,
and calling card.

originals and typescript copy of letter

Letter sent from Sitka, Alaska, dated August 20, 1877,
to "Gib", J. Gibson Winnen, in Philadelphia from Lt.
Rockwood who was serving on the U.S. Revenue
Steamer *Thomas Corwin* sent to Sitka in August 1877
when U.S. Treasury department agents expressed
fears that the Tlingit Indians would attack the
settlement after Army troops left Alaska in June. Letter
describes Alaska and activities in Sitka.

Purchase, 1/93.

No inventory available.

1. Sitka (Alaska)--History. 2. United States Revenue Cutter Service.
3. Indians of North America--Alaska. 4. Corwin (Ship). 5. Rockwood, Frederick L.

Notice : transcript of entire letter is in this folder; do not pull original
without permission from the librarian.

Typescript of letter to "Gib" (J. Gibson Winnen, Esq.) from "Fred" (Lieutenant Frederick L. Rockwood), August 20, 1877:

Sitka, Alaska

Aug 20th 77

Gib

Old fellow was thinking of you & so write. here we are out of the world a gunning for "Big Injuns" we have been laying off a Village one mile long "Sitka Jack" chief says he has one thousand fighting men & don't care for us--will have to shell them out & knock their village about thier ears to bring them down to their senses. Our Capt is temporary Gov. of Alaska. Thus his hands are full--one Indian bought a coal oil can of a Trader filled it with water & plugged it up tight & put it on the fire it burst & killed two of his children--he demanded twenty blankets for the loss of his papooses & was going to kill the trader and many other like cases. When the troops left Indians got saucy and helped themselves to what they wanted & the Residenters were glad to see us a coming they are mostly Russians. but gave a ball in our honor in an old castle a Russian Prince used to be Gov.r of Alaska, lived in met several Russian girls & was suprised to find them so well educated and refined way out here. they made me step out in the quadrilles & learned me a good deal about dancing. they are going to travel in the U.S. when going home to St. Petersburg--tis splendid scenery here the best I ever met with. really grand--climate like Maine--there must be plenty of gold and silver some where here. the Indians bring in very rich specimens. and lead ore that yields ninety five per cent pure lead. Salmon three feet long with two hard bread biscuits. Buck deer one dollar apiece. but for all I would rather be in Phila--a blowing my horn--will fit out in San Fran'co this winter for a cruise off Northern Alaska ____? ____ ____? ____ & up the "Yucon" River 1400 miles--remember me to my friends & please write if time. Do you see or hear anything of Miss Barnett & Hunter--guess Benley tumbled her over too often With best wishes to you & yours as ever your pupil

Fred